Lenape Clothing

Clothing was made of skins, feathers and plant material, sewn and held together with thread made from sinew. Women wore dresses, men shirts, and both wore leggings, all being made from deerskin. Moccasins were also made from deerskin, and decorated with shell beads, porcupine quills, bells, etc. Men wore a loin cloth or breech clout of soft buckskin, which passed between the legs and was brought up and folded over a deerskin belt, front and back. An interesting cross-cultural exchange took place where Native Americans first dressed in deerskin clothing, after the introduction of cloth in trading, they started to wear cloth clothing and European-style clothing, and the Europeans took up their deerskin clothing with the fringe.

Men and women wore stone and shell pendants, beads, necklaces, armbands and anklets, and earrings of stone, shells, animal teeth and claws. In wintertime, fur robes and leggings were worn; women sometimes wore shawls of feathers. Hair was worn long by both men and women. It was looked upon as sacred and unique to each person, a kind of signature, placed by the Creator upon each person at birth. It was one's connection to spirit.

Both men and women painted their faces using various colors according to personal design. Men often painted their bodies also. Women commonly used red, making spots on their cheeks and painted their ears or around the eyes